

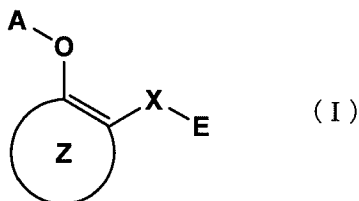
Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

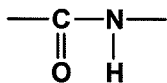
Listing of Claims:

1-16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) A method for preventive and/or therapeutic treatment of dermal pigmentation and/or ~~development of skin cancer~~ in a mammal including a human, which comprises the step of administering a preventively and/or therapeutically effective amount of ~~a substance selected from the group consisting of~~ a compound represented by the following general formula (I) ~~and or~~ a pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof, ~~and a hydrate thereof and a solvate thereof:~~



wherein X represents a group represented by the following formula:



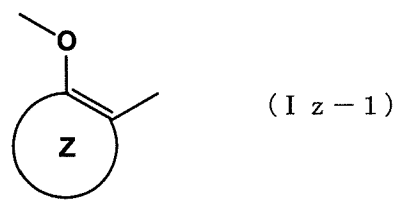
wherein a bond at the left end binds to ring Z and a bond at the right end binds to E,

A represents hydrogen atom,

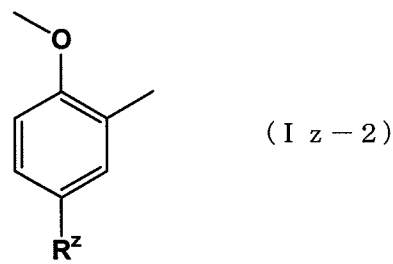
E represents a ~~2,5-di-substituted phenyl group wherein at least one of said substituents is trifluoromethyl group, a 3,5-di-substituted phenyl group wherein at least one of said substituents is trifluoromethyl group, or a 4,5-di-substituted thiazol-2-yl group~~ a 2,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)phenyl group or a 3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)phenyl group, and

~~ring Z represents a C₆-to-C₁₀-arene which may have one or more substituents in addition to the group represented by formula —O—A wherein A has the same meaning as that defined above and the group represented by formula —X—E wherein each of X and E has the same meaning as that defined above, or a 5- to 13-membered heteroarene which may have one or more~~

substituents in addition to the group represented by formula —O—A wherein A has the same meaning as that defined above and the group represented by formula —X—E wherein each of X and E has the same meaning as that defined above, the following partial formula (Iz-1) in the general formula (I) containing ring Z



represents the following formula (Iz-2):



wherein R^Z represents a halogen atom, to a mammal including a human.

18.-20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim ~~20~~ 17, wherein E is a 3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)phenyl group, and R^Z is a halogen atom.

22.-23. (Canceled)

24. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 17, for preventive and/or therapeutic treatment of dermal pigmentation.

25. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 21, for preventive and/or therapeutic treatment of dermal pigmentation.

26. (Currently Amended) A method of inhibiting transformation and/or proliferation of melanocytes caused by ultraviolet irradiation, which comprises the step of allowing a substance a

compound represented by the general formula (I) or a pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 17 to act on melanocytes.

27. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 26, wherein the ~~substance~~ compound represented by the general formula (I) or the pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof is the same as that defined in claim 21.

28. (Currently Amended) A method of skin whitening, which comprises the step of administering an effective amount of ~~a substance~~ a compound represented by the general formula (I) or a pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 17 to a human.

29. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 28, wherein the ~~substance~~ compound represented by the general formula (I) or the pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof is the same as that defined in claim 21.

30. (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 17, wherein the mammal is a human.

31. (New) The method according to claim 17, for preventive and/or therapeutic treatment of skin cancer.

32. (New) The method according to claim 17, for therapeutic treatment of dermal pigmentation and/or skin cancer.

33. (New) The method according to claim 17, for preventive treatment of dermal pigmentation and/or development of skin cancer.